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HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE SOUTH SINCE THE WAR.

NO study has become more popular in America within the past few years than that of History. And in indicating a change in the conditions, there is no more fitting time than the Civil War to take as the point of departure from the past to the present. This division not only marks the modern period of development, it indicates a self-consciousness in the Nation never before so alert. In the South, the momentous years, 1860-1865, are even in greater measure the dividing line between the old and the new—with different civilizations, new objects, and new ideals.

But before entering upon the consideration of what the South has been recently doing in this province of thought, upon what conditions the work has been based, along what lines developed, and what are the tendencies and the promise, it is interesting to note, in order to get relative bearings firmly established, that the growth of this historic instinct throughout the country seems one of the main results of the war itself—a consciousness born of new feelings and ideas and conceptions, and derived from a closer discernment of the events and the development of the past.

In an address before the American Historical Association, President Charles Kendall Adams has emphasized the recentness of the application of modern methods of historic study even in our foremost institutions. Harvard developed beyond the merest academic training since 1870, the time of the advent of Henry Adams as Professor of History. Dr. George P. Fisher was at Yale as early as 1861, but there was no second Professorship until 1868, and the restrictions may be readily imagined as long as one man alone carried, Sinbad like, the burden of all ages and epochs upon his shoulders. The call which Professor John W. Burgess followed from

Amherst to Columbia, in 1877, marks the new era in the course of history in the metropolitan institution, and in 1880 its justly distinguished School of Political Science entered upon its brilliant course. Cornell opened its classes in 1868 under President Andrew D. White, and in 1881 it endowed the first distinctive chair of American History in the United States, with Professor Moses Coit Tyler as incumbent. Coming fresh from German universities, Andrew D. White had begun an advanced course at the University of Michigan in 1857, which was continued later by Charles Kendall Adams, and the widely-extended interest in historical and political science, which had long characterized this Northwestern institution, thus early received its natural impulse. President Gilman opened the Johns Hopkins University in 1876, and six years later the machinery of Professor Herbert B. Adams' *Historical Seminar* was in working order. More recently, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Brown, have displayed increased activity in these branches, still newer institutions have been opened, while others have extended their courses and added to the number of their chairs. But, perhaps, it is making no invidious distinctions if we accept those mentioned above as being, within the past decade, especially active in their zeal for historic investigation and most influential in creating a school of followers and disciples.

If we looked solely at the latest manifestations of this historic spirit, we might hesitate to place the dividing line at the war, and could bring it forward to the more recent date of 1876, when was celebrated the centennial year of our independence from England. But while admitting the marked increase in the spheres of this later activity, we conceive it to be but the natural development of a spirit which preceded and first implanted the seed in a new generation, to whom the past meant not so much participation as history.

Two great causes, therefore, seem to lie at the bottom of our awakening, to have brought us to a national and indi-

vidual consciousness. First, there were the influences and the results of the war. There was the universal conviction, whether North or South, that after four years of the direst conflict and after the settlement of great issues, however much men might differ as to the policy and as to the principles, yet our country at least had a past. There was now plenty of material for writing a history, whether on the one hand, it looked forward to higher developments along new lines, or on the other, it gave a sigh of regret for the glories of the past. The eye of the historian was no longer naturally directed to the study of the Middle Ages or to the annals of England, France, Spain, or other European countries, but it turned inwards and addressed American conditions. And thus ten or fifteen years after the close of this great struggle, schools of history and historians began to arise almost simultaneously in every intellectual centre of the country. This new interest was not the discovery of any one man nor the work alone of one institution, however much it was furthered by individual efforts. It lay in the air, it was the outgrowth of the spirit of the times—the people had become awakened and were self-conscious.

But just as in England the manifestations of the intellectual and spiritual awakening of the sixteenth century were intensified by the Revival of Letters and the Reformation falling together, so the close of the war, followed by a short period of recuperative power, almost coincided with the end of our first century of national existence. Ten years after the surrender at Appomattox occurred the first of a series of centennial celebrations, from the commemoration of the Battle of Concord to that of the Evacuation of New York. Another decade thus passed, intensifying with each month and year the national spirit; sending abroad the feeling of harmony and union in common rejoicings about boards where both sections could unite in the applause of the same sentiments of patriotism and liberty; and nourishing at every stage of its progress the historic sense and consciousness. Not only national and historic, also personal and local

pride was increased. Each part wished to show its own birthright, as it were, to this great national inheritance, and at once began to demonstrate what each section and State and party and race and family had contributed to the magnificent structure.

Series of books and pamphlets were issued, whole schools of history were set to work, there arose co-operation and joint-stock companies in this, as in other things. The passion for biography, always regarded as one of the eyes of history, which clearly distinguishes the present era the world over, added fervor to the tendency. Series of American Commonwealths, American Statesmen, American Men of Letters, American Religious Leaders, Makers of America, Great Commanders, evidenced the intensity of the spirit and the wide-spread interest. The American self-consciousness once called into being, no detail affecting the past was too slight for investigation. Historical associations and various societies of related character were organized, national, State, and local; there sprang up Sons and Daughters of the Revolution, Camps of Veterans and Sons of Veterans; fiction chose to pursue the same line; even fashions and advertisements displayed the influence of the coloring; and while in the daily newspaper much of the intensity may have been gradually dropped and something else have taken its place as the latest interest of the day, yet our schools and colleges and universities and library associations and literary circles had permanently accepted the impulse as a part of their inner being, their heritage from the past, ineradicable in the very nature of things from their constitution.

Turning more directly to the South in these considerations and examining the manifestations of these features as there distinguished, it was but natural that the fact of the war, the result and circumstances connected therewith, should have demanded attention first of all. There was not always strict regard to details, for of these men were at first heartily sick, and often tried to forget them; so it came about that much that was especially valuable was consciously

destroyed. But a discussion of old principles by the participants, a delivery of sentiment over the dead and suffering—this was but the assertion of nature, and assuredly to their lasting credit. Leaders seemed to have the prevision that a statement from them would be welcomed and attended to by posterity, who might need information as to their motives and measures in the great struggle; what was at first controversial, as the amenities of time poured in their balm, became more reminiscent; and to-day, a little late to be sure, when so much has been destroyed wilfully and from sheer neglect, complete muster-rolls are being reconstructed, histories of regiments and companies and commands are written, and every fact, every circumstance, is painfully unravelled.

It is easy enough to-day to understand the significance of such books as those by Alexander H. Stephens and Jefferson Davis. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston left a "Narrative" of his campaigns; Gen. Beauregard and others published numberless papers and magazine articles. Officers and privates have found opportunity to discuss measures and men and deeds, and however incomplete, fragmentary, and necessarily one-sided and unscientific the form of much of this has been—not even directed with the precision a fixed bureau and editorship might have given—yet the effect has been gradually to amass material of which every detail has its importance. Numerous biographies of the great participants have appeared from time to time—of Lee, of Jackson, of A. S. Johnston, of Davis, of Stephens, of Toombs, of Memminger—each striving to add fresh material and to show the character of the man in a clearer light. Survival meetings are held, reunions occur, though fewer each year answer to the drum-tap, monuments to the illustrious dead are unveiled—to Calhoun, Lee, Jackson, Hill—orations are delivered, and with every demonstration through all its wear and intense enthusiasm fresh details are gathered, the gleanings are both numerous and often precious, and the cause of history is subserved. The *historic* sense has

grown in proportion as the *personal* feeling has become blunted.

It was for collecting details connected with this past, the events of the four years of the war, that the Southern Historical Society was organized twenty years ago at the Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs. Scraps and clippings from all sorts of papers, direct and special contributions, marginalia and fugitiva have been brought together in the twenty annual volumes, which have thus far appeared, and preserved in permanent and easily accessible form. Other channels still are our monthly magazines, the Sunday editions of newspapers in our leading cities, North and South. Sometimes these constitute a loosely connected series, and are afterwards collected in one volume and reduced to book form. An instance is the *Century* "War Papers," and one, more modest but hardly less important, is the small volume issued a few years ago by the Charleston *News and Courier*, bearing the title "Our Women in the War."

Looking at the list of Historical Societies in the Southern States, we may single out those in Virginia for number, prominence, and activity. Seven are named in the list published by the American Historical Association as belonging to Virginia, but it must be confessed that some of these exist for the most part on paper, or merely in a nominal way in connection with some library, and for any work they produce or active organization they possess, must be considered as really non-existent, a fear which may be entertained for the majority of the 218 accredited to the United States. There are, too, more Virginian members of the American Historical Association than representatives from any other Southern State, constituting, as they do, almost half the entire Southern constituency, even though this number be exceedingly small, some thirty to forty, hardly more than six per cent. of the full membership. The reason for this exceptional interest on the part of Virginia is not hard to discover. She was the first colony founded, she played a notably conspicuous part in the further set-

tlement and development of the country, in securing liberty and independence, and in furnishing leaders both in war and in council. The Virginia Historical Society, which was organized in 1831, is the oldest in the South. True, it died after a few years, and upon reorganization led for a while a precarious existence; but it has always had its heroic supporters. In the period since the war, from 1870 through to 1892, it was virtually embodied in its Corresponding Secretary, Mr. R. A. Brock, one of the most zealous workers in the historic field of his State. Under his editorship, beginning with 1882, eleven annual volumes of valuable documents, chiefly relating to the colonial period, have been published—one of the few instances of persistent activity on the part of an historical society in the South. Equally to Virginia—which furnished so many leaders and lent her soil for the constant battle-ground—may be credited the Southern Historical Society, with headquarters in Richmond the old Confederate capital, and under the secretaryship of Mr. Brock. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, organized by the ladies of Virginia, is particularly active, both practically and in social gatherings. The Sons and Daughters of the Revolution strike peculiarly strong root in Virginia soil. The historic colleges in Virginia lend themselves readily to the same spirit. The Historical and Geographical Society of Richmond College has for several years done inspiring work with its students, and produced even more permanent results in frequent public addresses on some point of original investigation by distinguished citizens and visitors. Other colleges are endeavoring to be no whit behind. Roanoke College has its local society, and that at Hampden-Sidney, while perhaps younger than some in years, is deficient neither in numbers nor in working interest. William and Mary, under the direction of her President, is publishing a quarterly periodical filled with data taken from the rich sources of the past of the college and its section. For three years past, the Board of Washington and Lee University

have been issuing records pertaining to her early history. Likewise many of the commencement addresses at these and other Virginia institutions are filled with historic interest, the occasion constantly alluring the speaker to special investigation and research.

But perhaps the best evidence of this interest and activity in the South in historical matters may be obtained by a glance over the list of membership of the American Historical Association. Here are many names calling up noble pieces of work and much praiseworthy effort, even though there be marked the absence of some of our most enthusiastic workers.

First of all, Prof. Herbert B. Adams, of the Johns Hopkins, deserves mention, both for his own researches in Southern educational history, and for the inspiring and suggestive influence he has exerted on so many young Southern scholars. The late Col. William Allan's "Army of Northern Virginia" has just been published by the Boston firm, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., who have always heartily encouraged and supported historical investigation. Ex-President Kemp P. Battle, of the University of North Carolina, has fanned the flame of historic interest in his State, aided by his official position. Prof. E. W. Bemis, late of Vanderbilt University, has prepared, under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins publications, a monograph on local government in the South and Southwest. Dr. Jeffrey R. Brackett, of Baltimore, has written of the negro, as have also Mr. Edward Ingle, of Washington, and Mr. Philip A. Bruce, of Richmond. William T. Brantley, of the Baltimore bar, contributed to Justin Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History of America," and among other collaborators of the same work were Messrs. William Wirt Henry and R. A. Brock, of Richmond, William J. Rivers, of South Carolina, and Charles C. Jones, Jr., of Georgia. The activity of Mr. R. A. Brock, in connection with the Virginia and Southern Historical Societies, has already been mentioned. Alexander Brown's two volumes on the "Genesis of the United States" have laid bare the details of the strug-

gle between the English and the Spanish governments for the settlement and possession of Northern America, and have reopened the controversy concerning Captain John Smith. The late Col. John Mason Brown, of Louisville, wrote for the Filson Club "The Political Beginnings of Kentucky." The Hon. Wm. A. Courtenay, of Charleston, issued, while mayor, a series of year-books for the city, and has lately engaged in efforts to obtain for the South Carolina Historical Society transcripts of colonial records from London. Dr. J. L. M. Curry, general agent for the Peabody Fund, besides contributing numerous reminiscences of his own historic life, has delivered addresses not only on the history of education in the South, but especially on the relations between Church and State and on Baptist origins and development. Prof. Heath Dabney, of the University of Virginia, has, for the most part devoted attention, in accordance with the nature of the duties of his chair, to the scientific aspects of history, the causes of the French Revolution and kindred subjects. The published papers of Professor Means Davis, of the South Carolina College, appeal more to the economical and political reader. Edward Eggleston, not himself a Virginian, but of Virginian family and descent, has written much of Southern colonial life, portrayed Bacon's Rebellion, and besides, in romance-writing, used Western Virginia and the early Northwest as historic background. Mr. William Wirt Henry's three volumes, comprising the "Life and Letters of Patrick Henry," are not merely a monument of devotion to the memory of a grandsire, but deserve special recognition for the arduous and painstaking labor of love which produced them, considering how scattered and lost is so much of the material for Southern history and biography. Another filial work is the biography of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, by his son, Col. William Preston Johnston, the President of Tulane University. Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr., has long been the source of an enthusiastic interest in Georgia history, whether colonial, State, or city. His numerous addresses and monographs are but pendants to his fuller

"History of Georgia." The late Dr. James F. Latimer, of the Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sidney, specialized in Church history, and left addresses on Early Presbyterianism in Virginia and the South. Thomas Nelson Page has, perhaps, best told of the history of Virginia through his stories. It is the romance of the Old South which breathes in the sketches "In Ole Virginie" and "On Newfound River;" while his numerous addresses have direct reference either to the history of the past, or to the incitation of the historical spirit. Approaching nearer still to the more scientific aspects of historic investigation is the announced Life of Thomas Nelson, for the Makers of America series, which it is proposed, will be a study of colonial conditions. The late unhappy death of the Tennessee Congressman James Phelan, cut off the bright promise of a scholarship and training received at Leipsic, but not before the "History of Tennessee" had been written, and the incorporation by the national government of the American Historical Association had been secured by his services. Another civic officer, the Hon. Wm. L. Saunders, North Carolina's Secretary of State, edited several volumes of invaluable records pertaining to the State's colonial history—in itself a monumental work, and a noble example for sister commonwealths. Prof. Charles Lee Smith, now of William Jewell College, wrote North Carolina's educational history in the series edited by his instructor, Dr. Adams, of the Johns Hopkins, and published by the National Bureau of Education. The labors on the English Constitution, by Hannis Taylor, Esq., of Mobile, have received the highest commendation for learning, acumen, and scholarship. Prof. William P. Trent, of Sewanee, has edited the Gilmer Letters relating to the history of the University of Virginia; has published numerous notes on the growth of historic spirit in the South, and has more recently written the Life of Simms, for the American Men of Letters series, in which he gives a study of ante-bellum Southern literary conditions. President Lyon G. Tyler, of William and Mary, has not only proved one in the number of

filial writers of biography in his "Letters and Times of the Tylers," but, in addition to a smaller work on "Parties and Patronage in the United States," has begun issuing the "William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Publications." Prof. Stephen B. Weeks, of Trinity College, North Carolina, has inspired local research, and worthily set the example for his pupils by his own periodic contributions. The Rev. Dr. Wm. H. Whitsitt, of Louisville, has written the "Life and Times of Judge Caleb Wallace," another Filson Club publication. Prof. Woodrow Wilson, belonging originally to North Carolina, but in the historic training which he has received, and in the professorships he has filled, hardly longer to be credited to the South, has been especially active in publication. His analysis of Congressional Government, and his study of the State—the origins, development, and forms of government—have just been followed by the third volume of the Epochs of American History, "Division and Reunion, 1829-1889." President George P. Winston, of the University of North Carolina, is following the example of his predecessor in lending all the weight of his office to the inspiration of local historic zeal, a late evidence of which was the series of lectures at Chapel Hill from Prof. Hart, of Harvard, on the principles and methods of scientific historical investigation.

The above are but representative names taken from the American Association's list, and they serve merely for illustration. Many others still have done notable work. There are the volumes of Col. J. Thomas Scharf—founder of the collection of Southern History at the Johns Hopkins University, and of Dr. William Hand Browne, on Maryland. There are, too, the noteworthy efforts of Prof. Virgil A. Lewis, in West Virginia, whose monthly "Southern Historical Magazine" must, after a valuable career of two years, suspend publication for the nonce, to be resumed as a quarterly periodical. There are, besides, the achievements of the Filson Club, of Louisville, under its founder and leader, Col. Reuben T. Durrett; the valuable labors of Dr. William P. Palmer and others, in

editing the Calendar of Virginia State Papers; the zeal and active interest of Gen. Giles P. Thruston, of Nashville; of Dr. James H. Carlisle, of Wofford College, South Carolina; of Fay Hempstead, Esq., of Little Rock, and others. The historic interest associated with and gathering about large public libraries, as in Baltimore, Richmond, Charleston, New Orleans, deserves especial notice. Even some of the smaller towns are forming their nucleus of books; and the first results are always seen in an outburst of historic zeal, and the spirit of research.

While most of the States in the South have nominally Historical Societies, yet their activity as media of publication has been virtually *nil*. As intimated, the Virginia Society has long held an exceptional place in this regard, it having issued an annual volume for the past eleven years; and in addition to this, a new quarterly journal has been projected by its executive committee. After Virginia, Kentucky seems especially prominent in having a society which furnishes regular publications. This is the Filson Club, of Louisville. From a membership of ten, it has grown in eight years to one of more than five hundred, representing all parts of the State, and has published successively seven annual quarto volumes.

The pioneer history of the West and Southwest is attracting especial attention now that we are celebrating the Discovery and the Making of America. In this recital the most striking episodes are connected with the founding of Western Virginia, and the beginnings of Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Northwest Territory, when the first heroic vanguard ventured across the Appalachian range, following up the course of the rivers into the then great unknown. It is the story of a country settled by native resources and individual energy independent of English charters, a story which counted for much in emphasizing the idea of national union in American history. It is a narrative that tells how the Englishmen along the coast won the Mississippi Valley and the vast interior from France and from Spain, each of which

seemed at one time to hold the key to the future, and might have changed our whole destiny. This idea has attracted other than Southern pens. It is the central thought permeating the series of Parkman's histories just completed by the "Half-Century of Conflict." More directly still, Theodore Roosevelt's "Winning of the West," deals with this movement. The material of the latter was in large measure obtained from papers in the hands of citizens and societies of Kentucky and Tennessee, evincing the rich sources which it still remains a privileged duty to publish. Indeed, where may the investigation of Southern material end? The great Southwest and Texas are still comparatively unexplored; Louisiana has always yielded a rich harvest, which seems never failing; South Carolina, Florida, and all the Gulf States, are replete with material yet to be worked up.

The study of the elements in our composition is in itself a phase. We have already Scotch-Irish and French Huguenot societies, but there are still other constituents. The descendants of these races are endeavoring to trace back to its origin each thread, and to appreciate its value; and if at reunions and at festive dinners native enthusiasm tends to lose sight of proportion and relative importance, still the need of the work may not be disputed. The oration of the Hon. John S. Wise, in last December, before the Congregational Club of New York, on Virginia's lineage, was an especially clear analysis of the original elements entering into the constituency of the Old Dominion. A paper of the writer before the Virginia Historical Society a year ago, was an attempt from a somewhat similar point of view, making use of statistics in support of theories; and he cannot refrain from expressing the belief that along similar lines a great deal may still be done; only all the threads of the woof must be carefully examined, as it seems reasonable to maintain that not one alone, but all contribute towards making up the whole cloth.

The essays in Southern fiction since the war throw no faint light on the interest in Southern History. This fic-

tion has been chiefly historical, or at least based on historic elements. John Esten Cooke, who lived in and through the war, found in the emotions to which it gave rise the natural expression of his art. No less did Cable find his opportunity in the race conditions present in the variegated life—French, Spanish, and Creole—near the mouth of the Mississippi; and it is little wonder that in his desire to trace these manifestations to their past, he should pry into hidden history, and not only glean strange true stories of Louisiana, tracing survivals of dialect and letters, but add contributions to the history of the city and State itself—even if it be a history tinged with the color of romance. It is not strange that Miss Grace King, working with the same colored pigments, should become interested in the career of *Sieur de Bienville*. James Lane Allen could not describe Kentucky life in the past and present without feeling the sense of its historic background. Thomas Nelson Page took but a slight step in passing from the pictures of colonial dames and times to his *genre* portraits “befo’ de war”, and thence from the pathetic treatment of the romance of history to the serious discussion of history in detail. Indeed, everywhere it is the historic consciousness which has seized upon and controls our life and its manifestations—our letters and the expression of our thought. We shall not go out of our way to compare it with the French consciousness wrought by the great Revolution, or with the ripening of German thought and the intensifying of German unity which sprung from the Napoleonic wars. Certainly for those of us who are teachers of literature and of history, and are making the attempt to incite among our youth an enthusiasm for writing and for investigation, there is hardly a more promising field. The opportunity lies in eliciting interest in local concerns and surroundings. The literary and historic sense is aroused and its spirit encouraged and vivified solely by the powers of observation and investigation. To one gifted with imagination, artistic insight, and the poet’s soul, it affords the basis of future romance and fiction; in others endowed with a more strenuously logical

cast of mind and a keen scent for tracing effect to cause and conditions to origins, it assumes the philosopher's garb and the historian's methods. In all cases it has lifted the mind beyond mere text-book pages and academic lecturing—it has given bread instead of a stone.

Of the universities which have especially influenced historic investigation in the South, the Johns Hopkins stands easily first. Many causes may have contributed to this. Harvard and other colleges have been too far north, while Baltimore was centrally located, and had always been recognized as essentially a Southern city. Special privileges to Virginia and North Carolina, as well as proximity, attracted students from those States. Its convenience to the District of Columbia tended to give it at the outset a national significance and to inculcate a catholic spirit. Indeed the incitements to post-graduate work which other institutions, thus thrown on their mettle, have since received, and the recent organization of Clark, Chicago, and Stanford Universities in the eastern, central, and extreme western divisions of our country, to meet especial needs, simply attest the fact that the pioneer American university has successfully created a soil from which such plants may derive an invigorating growth. Especially in American historical, political, and economical science has this institution been prominent, and not a few of its students and graduates in this department have been scattered over the South, teaching in Southern institutions, and extending in turn to others the inspiration which they themselves have received. Even much of the work and investigation in local matters thus effected received its direct impulse and suggestion from the parent institution.

In other cases, however, the inspiration to historic zeal came not from without but from within, where native environment and a notable past have developed an interest in history. Such has been pre-eminently the case with the three oldest institutions in Virginia and the South: through the colonial beginnings of William and Mary, the Scotch-Irish origins of Washington and Lee, and the fervor

of religious liberty and national independence manifested in founding Hampden-Sidney.

The remark has already been made that the publication of historical works has been frequently in the form of series, the system of co-operation being applied even to this field of work, as a characteristic symptom of the times. The American Commonwealths have included thus far the histories of Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, in the South, and the history of these may hardly be said to exceed that of other States in interest or in value. The South has been especially well-equipped for furnishing subjects to the American Statesmen series—and, most of all, Virginia, which had the largest white population of any State at the period just before and after the Revolution. Two volumes on George Washington, two on Henry Clay, others on Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, John Randolph, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, John C. Calhoun, and Thomas H. Benton have been the South's quota. True, hardly one of these biographies has been written by a Southern scholar, but by some one from a thoroughly objective point of view, not always in sympathy with the subject. Still the series has called forth pronounced attention to the subject of American History as affected by the South and Southern men, has incited the spirit of investigation in the South, and if even sharp criticism has been heard, it has made other students and scholars who have differed, feel more keenly their own responsibilities. The American Men of Letters series has included but two Southern names—Poe and Simms. None of the "American Religious Leaders" has been taken from the South, although she has had likewise her famous theologians and divines. The "Makers of America" has gone southward fully as much as the "American Statesmen." The history of the lives of the Calverts, Oglethorpe, Sieur de Bienville, La Salle, Jefferson, Thomas Nelson, and Samuel Houston, each tells the tale of the expansion of Southern territory. The South has also her "Great Commanders" in the new series just announced:

Washington, Jackson, Taylor, Scott, Lee, and Joseph E. Johnston. Three of these are to be written by Southern men: the biography of Washington by Gen. Bradley T. Johnson, the one of Lee by his nephew, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, and that of Johnston by Mr. Robert M. Hughes.

Other biographies have been numerous—some written from personal love and devotion, as Mrs. Davis', Mrs. Perry's, Mrs. Jackson's, and some dictated by reverence and piety, among which, besides Johnston's, Tyler's and Henry's, we may include Mrs. Corbin's *Maurry*, Miss Rowland's *Mason*, and Mrs. Lee's *Pendleton*. This increase in female authorship is striking.

Especially interesting has been the unfolding of the intellectual life in the Old South, the analysis of the systems of education formerly in vogue. The series of monographs published by the National Bureau of Education under the editorship and supervision of Professor Herbert B. Adams, of the Johns Hopkins, has opened a mine of information, and presented a fair knowledge of the ideals in education and the breadth of intellectual training and culture in the earlier days. The revelations in many cases have been matter of universal surprise and congratulation. The editor of the series has himself written of education in Virginia, having become fascinated by the early history of the College of William and Mary, and the circumstances attendant upon the founding of the State University. The history of education in all the South Atlantic States—in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and also Alabama—followed soon afterwards, for the most part the work of pupils from those States who had caught something of their preceptor's enthusiasm and fire. Abundant material, and that most valuable for the portrayal of the life of the country, is still to be worked up here—the history of individual colleges and seminaries, and the lives of great educators—often the story of pathetic struggles and gigantic efforts against overwhelming forces—in short the complete narrative of the intellectual and literary life of the several States. Professor

Trent's *Simms*, which was a review of the former literary conditions of the South, has awakened both interest and discussion in this line. An announced lecture by President Charles W. Dabney, of the University of Tennessee, on "Intellectual Life in the Old South," is merely additional evidence of the interest the discussion excites. The writer himself has been collecting material looking forward to some contributions on the history of the institution with which he is connected and of the State in which he is laboring.

Social life has been hitherto described more in the novel than in our histories, but as Macaulay, himself a master in color, urged, there is no reason why this fair province should be taken from the possession of the serious historian. Sooth to say, Southern history has been too prone to neglect such a picturing of the times and has had a tendency to lapse into an explication of genealogies and family trees rather than to apprehend conditions. Not that this has not also its use; and it is to be hoped that the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution will bring to this phase of history the science it demands, basing conclusions on the best evidence, in wills and deeds filed in county clerks' offices, and in other records, and not solely upon the fond memory of maiden aunts and worse founded traditions.

Side by side with history, the study of economics is taught and is occupying the attention of present thinkers, and history is being written in its economical, commercial, and industrial aspects. None is more curious than Southern life in this regard—its systems of agriculture, land tenure, labor, crops, prices, taxation, transportation, travel, navigation, commerce, manufactures, banking, fiscal laws. It suffices merely to suggest the vast field here to be occupied. Is it too soon to discuss these questions in the light of *history* and not as a matter of *politics*, as so many of the questions pertaining to the South may alone be treated? Herein lies the greatest foe to the free expression of historic thought, to untrammelled historic research, in our section. Much has been said about the negro—when will be written the first com-

plete and authentic history of this race in America? Contributions have been already made, and it will be an interesting volume, whenever it appears.

In the realm of political and constitutional history more has been done, yet there is room still for systematic development. Statistics are hard and dry reading, but often eloquent in the very facts they present. The one desire is to trace all the threads of our life and to reproduce the entire past. Generalizations are difficult; data and elements are apt to be overlooked; but the aim should be to show forth the *real life* of the people as a whole, and not merely the transactions of the few—what they were and thought and did—life in the broadest sense, material, social, intellectual, moral, spiritual.

Many crude pieces of work evidence not so much incapacity, as lack of training and discernment as to the best ways to conduct an investigation. The responsibility herein involved rests upon the institutions of learning. They need not expect to rival the foremost universities of Germany, England, or the more wealthy North. Their scope and sphere of instruction must necessarily be far different on account of the limitations imposed by present conditions. But as so many of our youth naturally interested in this work may never get beyond the college or the State university, if no inspiration and direction be offered there, where else may it be given? An enthusiastic professor, a special chair, a fairly equipped and catalogued library, a few practical directions and pointed criticisms, and the ground work could be laid, and at least the stimulus to a movement begun and a number of bright young men enlisted. All over the South, in every State institution at least, in addition to the instructor in general history, one is needed especially for American and State and local interests; and it ought to prove a patriotic duty to provide this, and where possible even to subdivide the work among several ardent investigators. Enlarged library facilities will be needed, together with the chair, as the apparatus and tools to be handled in the work-

shop; and last, publication funds, too, so that everything collected and worked up by instructor and pupil, if of sufficient value, may be preserved and given to the world. Indeed, publication is becoming so fully recognized as one of the leading functions of the university, that in future endowments it will be felt that without this provision a chair and institution are in so far lamed.

We wish and need history to be written on broader and deeper foundations. It will not do to regard ourselves as cut off from the rest of the universe in thought—as having a peculiar world all to ourselves and a history of our own. This is true only to the limited extent that a peculiar economic system and isolated geographical position may have imposed it upon us. We must look beyond these narrow confines and, so far as possible, observe the trend of the age and our own share of history within it. We have had recently addresses from two great English historians, Mr. Froude and Mr. Lecky, on the province of history, and both have interested, while one has charmed us. But Mr. Froude to the contrary, who believes neither in evolution nor in devolution, in progress, science, nor aught else in the historic sphere, and sees only a stage crowded with innumerable figures, ideas do control men and minds and are stronger in a century than any one man or government; and he becomes the transcendent leader to posterity, who seems to have best expressed the primary idea of his day. We do want sympathetic history, but let it be pervaded by a sympathy that is not narrow, but universal, and guided by a true philosophy. The advocate's plea is a distinct contribution and goes to make up history; but it is not history itself. The judge of last resort still suspends sentence. Perhaps in some things we are still but the advocate, possibly in others the judge. At any rate, our activity should be apparent, and we may at least submit arguments to be weighed in the discussion, if we may not on all questions award the final word of judgment.

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